

Verna, his mom, had to give birth there because there was no room at the Community Hospital of Evanston, the only hospital in town that accepted Black patients. Hecky was one of nine siblings. He had a successful career in public service, serving as the director of several nonprofit agencies.

One day, Hecky got an idea for a restaurant. He was dating Cheryl Judice, a sociologist who would later become his wife. They didn't know much about food, but Hecky's mom did. Verna had lost her job at a restaurant, and his dad was unemployed at the time. So when the restaurant next to Hecky's office went on the market, he figured he would buy it, and his parents could actually run the restaurant. On October 13, 1983, Hecky's Barbecue opened up with only \$100 in the register. Many of the first recipes came from Verna and his Creole grandmother's native New Orleans.

Everyone enjoyed Hecky's. Chicago Bears legend William "The Refrigerator" Perry was an early customer, drawn to the sauce-drenched ribs, fries, and two slices of Wonder Bread. Chicago Bulls great Scottie Pippen had Hecky's cater the team's private plane on occasion. When the Northwestern Wildcats faced off with the University of Southern California Trojans in the Rose Bowl in 1996, then-mayor Lorraine Morton and Hecky bet the mayor of Pasadena that the Wildcats would win. The Trojans won 41 to 32, and Hecky made ribs and chicken for the entire Pasadena City Council.

But it was more than a restaurant. Hecky used his place to help high school kids learn responsibility and social skills, giving many of them their first jobs. He worked long hours, starting early in the morning, but he always had fun. No task was too small. He was cook, cleaner, and manager alongside his mother and the kids he was mentoring.

Hecky was a champion for local youth. In 1994, he founded the Forrest E. Powell Foundation. Named after his father, the foundation offers grant and scholarship opportunities. In 2016, he started the Evanston Work Ethic Program, which helps young people prepare for vocational or trade school.

In 2011, Hecky left work early, thinking he had the flu. He made light of it, but his wife knew better. He later was diagnosed with liver failure and told he had 6 to 7 months to live.

Hecky resolved that he was going to be fine and against tough odds, he lived to receive a liver transplant in 2015 and was able to get his life back. Hecky then joined the Northwestern Medicine Transplant Advisory Council Board to help people get their own lives back too.

For all this work, Hecky received the key to the city of Evanston in 2014, Abner Mikva Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015, and the street in front of the restaurant was officially renamed "Hecky Powell Way." A person did not know Evanston until they experienced it with Hecky.

When the COVID-19 pandemic reached Evanston, Hecky stepped up. Hecky's kept the whole staff on payroll and donated meals to hospital workers, shelters, and the Evanston Fire Department. Hecky, as the unofficial mayor of Evanston, was the face of the community poster that read "No Mask, No Sauce."

Evanston has lost a true leader of the community. He was kind and generous without ever asking anything in return. I was honored to count Hecky as a friend and enjoyed many great times together with him. Squeezing in a stop at Hecky's was part of every Evanston visit.

This June 19, people will celebrate with Hecky's Juneteenth Strawberry pop. For years, Hecky was part of the Jubilee, celebrating the arrival of news in Galveston, TX, that the Civil War was over and President Lincoln had issued his Emancipation Proclamation. He was Evanston's biggest supporter of making Juneteenth a holiday. This year, Evanston has its first Juneteenth Parade, and Hecky was going to be a big part of it, so it is fitting that the community will be dedicating part of the celebration to him.

Hecky is survived by his wife Cheryl, seven children, Sharmin, Terry, Dawn, Joy, Hecky Junior, Jason, and Gigi, as well as his mother and seven siblings.

#### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL THOMAS BERGESON

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate Lt. Gen. Thomas W. Bergeson, of the U.S. Air Force, and the deputy commander of United States Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, FL. Lieutenant General Bergeson is one of our Nation's finest military officers, and he will retire from Active military service on September 1, 2020, bringing to a close 35 years of distinguished service to our great Nation.

In 1985, Lieutenant General Bergeson commissioned as a second lieutenant upon graduation from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He commanded units at every echelon from fighter squadron to a numbered Air Force. Lieutenant General Bergeson also held various staff assignments, including positions as chief of aviation, strategic operations, Multi-National Forces-Iraq; senior defense official and defense attaché in the UK; and director, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, at the Pentagon.

Prior to his current assignment, he served as the deputy commander, United Nations Command Korea; deputy commander, U.S. Forces Korea; commander, Air Component Command, South Korea/U.S. Combined Forces Command; and commander, 7th Air Force, Pacific Air Forces at Osan Air Base. Over the course of his career, Lieutenant General Bergeson flew numerous fighter aircraft to include the F-15, the F-22, and the A-10. He is a graduate of the NATO Defense College

in Rome and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

At a time of great uncertainty in the world, particularly in the Middle East, Lieutenant General Bergeson served as a critical leader in Central Command, a combatant command that has an enormous influence and presence in some of the most volatile parts of the globe. Lieutenant General Bergeson is an exceptional leader and an American patriot who is committed to our Armed Forces, our national security, and our Nation. It is for Lt. Gen. Tom Bergeson that we, with profound admiration and deep respect, pay tribute to for all he has done for the defense of our Nation for over three decades as a leader and selfless servant.

Mr. President, it is my pleasure today to recognize Lieutenant General Bergeson's long and decorated career. On behalf of a grateful nation, I commend Lieutenant General Bergeson for his dedicated service to the United States of America. I also wish to recognize the sacrifices and contributions made by his wife, Pam, and his children, Erik and Kristin. I extend my best wishes to Lieutenant General Bergeson and his family and wish them the best in retirement and the years to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN MARITIME WORKFORCE

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I offer remarks to honor the men and women of the American maritime workforce and to thank them for their service. June 5, 2020, marks the 100th anniversary of the enactment of the U.S. Merchant Marine Act of 1920. Commonly referred to as the Jones Act, the act has served over the last century as the foundation of the Great Lakes and domestic shipping industry. This vital maritime law ensures that cargo moving between domestic ports is carried aboard vessels that are American-built, American-owned, and American-flagged, which in turn strengthens and supports U.S. homeland security while driving economic benefits to local communities. Each and every day, 365 days a year, the Jones Act functions to protect our Nation's 95,000 miles of coastline and inland waterways, limiting inland access to foreign vessels and crews while mariners serve as the eyes and ears to strengthen border and homeland security.

America's dependence on the Great Lakes and the seas is integral to our economic health and our sovereignty. Nowhere is this more evident than in my own State of Michigan. According to The American Maritime Partnership, Michigan's Great Lakes domestic maritime industry contributes \$2.8 billion annually to our State economy, including 12,140 jobs and \$703.6 million in worker income. With 37 deep-draft ports, Michigan has more than the 7 other Great Lakes States combined.

Over the last 100 years, the men and women of the U.S. maritime workforce

have also unfailingly answered the call to duty, providing vital services to support the Nation in times of crisis. Their service was never clearer than during the activation of civilian merchant mariners amidst the Second World War. These men and women moved critical supplies to overseas troops and allies, while enduring the highest rate of casualties of any service. More recently our domestic maritime workforce has responded swiftly to a range of crises facing the Nation, including facilitating the largest boatlift in world history following 9/11 and the current and ongoing delivery of essential medical supplies and goods to communities in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On this week's centennial anniversary of the Jones Act, I thank the men and women of the U.S. maritime industry for their service, and I vow to continue to work here in the Senate to uphold the integrity of the act's protections for our Michigan and Great Lakes workforce.

#### REMEMBERING JOE VANDEVER, SR.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I pay tribute today to Joe Vandever, Sr., who was one of the last surviving Navajo Code Talkers.

Joe was born February 5, 1923, into the Red Running Into the Water People clan, born for Two Who Came to the Water clan. He passed away 5 days shy of his 97th birthday, on January 31, 2020, in Haystack, NM.

Joe enlisted in the Marines when he was 19. He went through boot camp at Camp Pendleton and spent 6 months of intensive training learning the code and how to operate communications equipment to become a Navajo Code Talker.

Navajo Code Talkers transmitted key military information through a code based on the Navajo language that the Japanese never broke. They participated in every major Marine operation in the Pacific theater and gave the Marines a critical advantage throughout the war. However, when they returned, they couldn't talk about their work, which remained classified until 1968.

In 2001, Navajo Code Talkers, including Joe, received the Congressional Silver Medal.

Joe epitomized the bravery and skill of the Navajo Code Talkers. Joe's Navajo name means "going places," and he certainly did during the war. Serving in the 6th Marine Division from 1943 to 1946, Joe was stationed on 16 battleships—serving from Samoa to Guadalcanal to Guam to Japan to China. Joe translated messages from Navajo to English and set up communications posts on the frontlines.

Joe was a spiritual man, and he provided spiritual support for others in his Marine division. He liked to tell a story about how he knew he would come home from the war. Before he left, he had been blessed in a ceremony.

When he was in Guam, a bird he called a sheep-face bird—which was a Cassin's kingbird—came to him. There were no sheep-face birds in Guam, and that bird gave Joe a sign he would return home safely. And he did.

After he returned, Joe honored his Navajo traditions as a medicine man. He held many different jobs over the years—working at an oil refinery, in construction, and as a miner, prospector, farmer, and chauffeur. For 14 years, he was employed at the Gallup Indian Medical Center as a custodian.

Joe was fiercely proud of the Navajo language. According to Joe, "Our language is powerful," and "we [won] the war with our tongue." He wanted younger generations to learn the language and counseled them: "Don't ever leave your language."

Joe was a loving family man. After the war, he came home and married Bessie, to whom he was married for 73 years, until she passed away on September 24, 2019. He and Bessie had 9 children, 36 grandchildren, 55 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild. He inspired them and encouraged them to pursue higher education, and he was beloved by them all.

Joe lived a long life, and a good life—with kindness, optimism, good humor, integrity, and commitment and love for family and community. His light will continue to shine bright in his children and his future generations. I am honored to pay tribute to Joe Vandever who faithfully served our Nation and his family and Tribe.

#### TRIBUTE TO DARRELL WILLSON

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, today I rise to acknowledge the service of Mr. Darrell R. Willson, who is retiring as the Administrator of the National Gallery of Art in July after a 50-year career serving the public.

Mr. Willson has spent the three past decades with the gallery overseeing the backbone of its operations—protecting and preserving its historic buildings, working to expand its footprint, and ensuring that it maintains a world-class staff. As an executive officer of the institution, he has worked closely with gallery leadership, executive branch officials and Congress—including with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations—to ensure that the gallery has had the people and resources it needs to fulfill its mission. During his tenure, the gallery has completed more than \$400 million worth of renovations to the East and West Buildings and welcomed visitors to new public spaces such as the Sculpture Gallery and the Andrew W. Mellon Memorial Fountain. In short, his work has provided the gallery with a stunning backdrop to showcase its collection of more than 150,000 sculptures, paintings, drawings, and photographs to the American public.

His work with the National Gallery of Art is not the only contribution on Mr. Willson's resume that deserves recognition.

Prior to joining the gallery, Mr. Willson worked for a decade at the Art Institute of Chicago, rising through the ranks to become executive director of protective services. He also served the public as a local law enforcement official with the Waukegan, IL, police department. And of course, these positions are all in addition to his most important role—his service as a husband, a father, and a grandfather.

Mr. Willson deserves to take great pride in all of these important accomplishments—especially his tireless work in support of our Nation's great arts and cultural institutions—as he retires from the gallery. On behalf of the Senate, I send him our thanks and warmest congratulations for a job well done.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING RAVI ZACHARIAS

• Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, the State of Georgia and truly the entire world lost an exceptional beacon of goodness and faith when Ravi Zacharias passed away on May 19, 2020. However, our loss is Heaven's gain. Ravi was a man of deep faith, love, and service to others. He embodied the command of Jesus in Mark 16:15 to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

Ravi first came to know the teachings of Jesus Christ when he was 17 years old, when a nurse read the Word of God to him while he was recovering from a suicide attempt. From that day forth, Ravi made it his mission to share with others the joy and faith which had rescued him from despair.

In 1971, when he was just 25 years old, Ravi traveled to war-torn Vietnam, where he ministered in hospitals, military bases, and prison camps. The trip nearly cost him his life. Yet he went on to travel to every corner of the world sharing the Gospel.

In 1983, Reverend Billy Graham personally invited Ravi to speak at the inaugural International Conference for Itinerant Evangelists in Amsterdam. This helped Ravi develop a new passion for apologetics. Not only did he want to spread the Gospel, he wanted to help train others how to defend their faith in a rapidly secularizing world. A year later, Ravi founded Ravi Zacharias International Ministries to carry out this mission.

Over the years, Ravi continued sharing faith and love around the world through speaking engagements, books, and radio appearances, reaching untold numbers of people in need.

Ravi built incredible institutions for sharing the Christian faith. He founded the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics. He founded Wellspring International, a humanitarian group helping women and children around the world. In 2017, he founded the Zacharias Institute to teach apologetics in Atlanta, Georgia.